

Top Secret

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NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE DAILY CABLE

Saturday 31 December 1977

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NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION

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National Intelligence Daily Cable for Saturday, 31 December 1977

The NID Cable is for the purpose of informing senior US officials.

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PAKISTAN: New Confrontations

25X1 [] Another confrontation between Pakistan's martial law administration and the nation's largest political party appears likely. Leaders of former Prime Minister Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party have called for popular demonstrations on 5 January, Bhutto's birthday, in a continuing effort to force a call for early elections in preparation for a return to civilian government.

25X1 [] The proposed demonstrations would follow minor clashes between People's Party supporters and the police over the past two weeks. They would violate a ban on outdoor political activities and would thus constitute open defiance of the martial law administration.

25X1 [] The government has responded to the challenge with varying degrees of severity, but has focused its attention on those who presumably would lead any demonstrations. Bhutto's wife and daughter, both good orators, were placed under house arrest until 10 January, and other leading members of the People's Party in Punjab Province were arrested during the past week.

25X1 [] Chief Martial Law Administrator Zia-ul-Haq may use a scheduled tour of the Northwest Frontier Province this weekend to announce new restrictions on People's Party activities. []

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25X1 [] Zia's problems come at a time of increasing public criticism of the martial law administration for its failure to deal effectively with the sagging economy, inflation, and unemployment. Zia attempted to reassure the population that the military will return to the barracks by promising, in a statement on 21 December, to hold elections in 1978. He again emphasized, however, that they could not be held until after the trials of senior officials of the Bhutto regime. Bhutto himself is charged with several crimes, including participation in a political murder.

25X1 [] Zia and his advisers, meanwhile, are obviously concerned over Bhutto's continuing popularity and the inability of Bhutto's civilian political opponents to create a unified

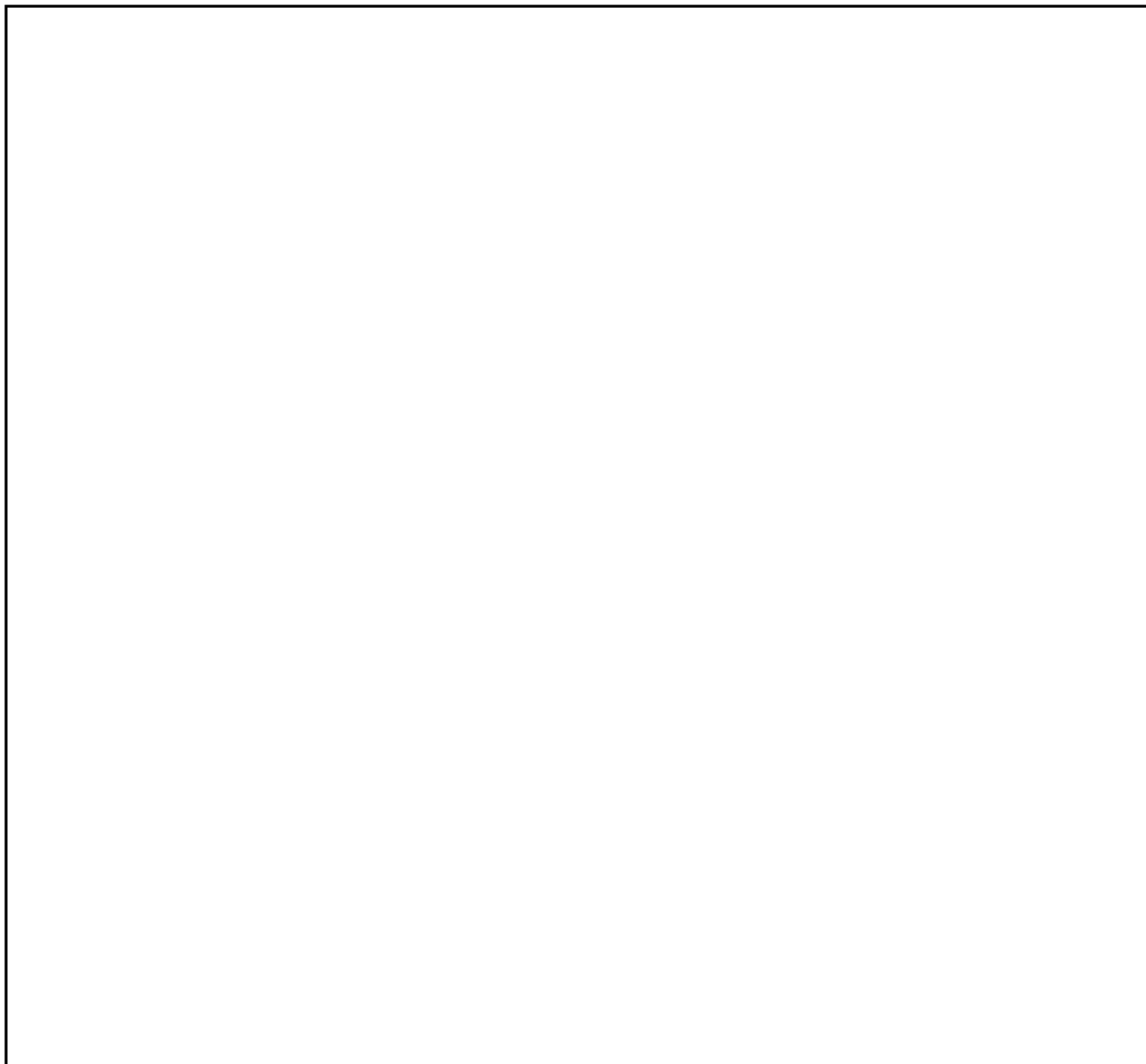
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and effective organization with which to contest the eventual elections. Zia and his associates are aware of Bhutto's reputation for vindictiveness, however, and can be expected to continue their efforts to ensure that the former Prime Minister never returns to power. [REDACTED]

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CAMBODIA-VIETNAM: Relations

[redacted] //The Cambodian Government announced today that it has severed diplomatic relations with Vietnam, and that air service between Phnom Penh and Hanoi will cease on 7 January. The action reflects Cambodia's frustration at being unable to halt recent Vietnamese advances in fighting in the Parrot's Beak area of the Cambodian-Vietnamese border.//

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[redacted] //The announcement follows a speech on Friday by Chairman of the State Presidium Khieu Samphan denouncing Vietnamese "aggression" and accusing Hanoi of conducting an "undeclared war" on Cambodia.//

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[redacted] //Cambodia has vague territorial claims in the border area,

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[]//The Cambodians have shown no willingness to negotiate, although Vietnamese spokesmen have told foreigners that Hanoi is prepared to talk.//

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[]//The fact that flights between the two capitals will not be halted for another week suggests that Cambodia is not willing to cut its only communications link with Hanoi. Phnom Penh may, however, demand that the Vietnamese withdraw from Cambodian territory before it will reestablish diplomatic relations.//

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BRIEFS

Spain

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[] The Spanish Government yesterday approved a decree law granting provisional autonomy to the Basque region. Basque leaders approved the agreement in draft form earlier this month, but violence in the Basque provinces delayed a government decree. The decree law is similar to that approved for Catalonia in September. In both cases, the powers of the regional government will be largely symbolic until the new national constitution now being drafted spells out the specific transfer of powers.

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[] This long sought step should help to calm the troublesome Basque provinces, although it may provoke clashes in the province of Navarra, which is bitterly divided over whether to join the Basque region. []

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France

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[]//Since shortly before Christmas, Paris and other French cities have been hit with a wave of bombings, almost all timed to avoid personal injuries. Several groups ranging across the political and special interest spectrums appear to have been responsible. One recent attack was directed against the home of Communist Party boss Georges Marchais. []

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] //The latest incidents bring the number of bombings in France this year to more than 550--up from 480 reported in 1976. The government is concerned that the incidents may continue and increase with the approach of the March legislative election--which is unlikely to give a clear mandate to any of the major political interests. The Interior Ministry, which has ordered a full-scale investigation, is especially concerned about the random nature of the bombings and the presumed involvement of several groups. This combination of factors makes defensive measures extraordinarily difficult.

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EC

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[REDACTED] //The European Community's recent decision to extend the Multifiber Agreement--which had been due to expire at the end of this year--marks another triumph in the EC's battle

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to protect its textile industries. EC insistence on a "reasonable departures clause," which in effect sanctions the tightening of import restrictions, suggests continued trouble for world textile trade.//

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[] //The EC began pushing for a departures clause in July. In the ensuing months the EC, by threatening to exclude textile exporters from its market, concluded bilateral negotiations with nearly 30 exporting countries. The EC was thus ready in December to support a renewed agreement, but only if its restrictive bilateral agreements were protected by an explicit departures clause.//

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[] //Other textile importing countries are now following the EC lead and negotiating more restrictive quotas to protect their own industries. The result for major exporting countries--such as Hong Kong, South Korea, and Taiwan--will probably be an increase in unemployment and a slowdown in economic growth. To make up for losses elsewhere, exporters are likely to try to increase shipments to the US. []

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Kuwait

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[] The ruler of Kuwait, Emir Sabah, died early today of a heart attack and was immediately succeeded by his nephew, Crown Prince Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah. The Emir had been in poor health for several years and had delegated many of his state functions to his nephew, who has been Prime Minister for 12 years. Jabir al-Ahmad, for some time Kuwait's most important policy maker, will probably make no significant departures from established foreign and domestic policies--including the oil issue. []

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